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S. SYMINGTON

# 'Missile Gap' Is Laid To Shifts in Intelligence

By the Associated Press

The "missile gap" came bouncing back into the news today on a Senator's statement that it was created and destroyed by the Central Intelligence Agency.

A Cabinet member agreed, in effect, and said those who talked of such a gap in 1960 did so in good faith.

In the 1960 presidential campaign, Democrats charged the Eisenhower administration had permitted Soviet Russia to open a wide gap in nuclear missile strength.

Last year, after President Kennedy took office, the "missile gap" apparently vanished and this brought Republican counter charges that Democrats deliberately misrepresented facts and created the "missile gap" out of whole cloth for political ends.

A published volume of hearings by the Senate Armed Services Committee included testimony by Secretary of Defense McNamara. He was explaining why he now believes the United States can cope with nuclear attack by Russia. This included estimates of Russian long-range strategic power.

## Given Timetable

Senator Symington, Democrat of Missouri, said in 1960 was among Democrats who contended the Eisenhower administration had permitted a gap to develop. And Mr. McNamara's remarks as an occasion to present a report of timetable on the development of revision of estimates of Soviet strength.

Senator Symington said that "in 1955 and 1956 we were given an estimate of the number of ICBMs Russia would have in fleet by 1960." In February, 1955, the Secretary of Defense announced that in the future, the estimate would be based on the "intent

instead of capability. In February, the estimate was cut 80 per cent, said Senator Symington. Then Senator Symington said, the timetable ran like this:

In August, 1960, the national intelligence estimate of Soviet missile strength was reduced 4 per cent; in June, 1961, it was reduced again "so that it was only 15 per cent of what it had been estimated as but a few months before."

In September, 1961—"All of this under the previous management of the Central Intelligence Agency and the 24 advisory groups"—it dropped again by 96.5 per cent from the estimate made 10 months before.